30-11-93, 2403 persons have been trained as commercial pilots by the Flying Clubs/ Schools.

(c) For development of Aerosports, Government has sanctioned grants-in-aid of Rs. 448 lakhs to the Aero Club of India, which is an apex body of flying and glinding clubs and other aerosports organisations in the country.

Out of Rs. 448 lakhs, Rs. 415.70 lakh has been released to the Aero Club of India.

There is already a State Government managed flying school, namely, Government Aviation Training Institute, Bhubaneshwar, in Orissa. At present, there is no proposal to set up another flying school in Orissa.

Statement

(a) Following are the States in which Flying Clubs/Schools have already been set up :

Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Maharastra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Andaman & Nicobar Islands (Union Territory).

(b) Followings are the States in which Glinding Clubs have already been set-up :

Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharastra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(a) Following are the States in which Flying Training Academies/Schools/Institutes are proposed to be set-up :

Gujarat, Karnatka, Maharastra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

(d) There is no proposal at present, to set up any more Glinding Club in the country.

Setting up of Travel Agencies in the Country

1924 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to encourage Travel Agents/Tour Operators at National Level and State level for promotion of tourism and for foreign exchange earnings ;

(b) if so, the details in this regard ;

(c) whether Government also issue licences/permission for setting up of Travel Agency in the States ; and

(d) if so, the number of such agencies, State-wise, functioning as on the 31st December, 1992 ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism has a purely voluntary scheme for grant of recognition of Travel Agents and Tour Operators all over the country. With a view to promote tourism and encourage foreign exchange earnings various incentives and concessions are given to such recognised agencies. They include tax reliefs, concessional import duty on specified items and financial assistance for development of international tourism.

(d) The number of recognised Travel Agencies/Tour Operators, State-wise, as on 31-12-1992 is : Andhra Pradesh : 5 ; Assam : 1 ; Bihar : 2 ; Delhi : 138 ; Goa : 2 ; Gujarat : 5 ; Kerala : 7 ; Maharashtra : 56 ; M. P. : 1 ; Orissa : 1 ; Pondicherry : 2 ; Rajasthan : 2 ; Tamil Nadu : 19 ; Uttar Pradesh : 3 ; West Bengal : 18 ; J & K : 13 ; Karnataka : 17 and Chandigarh (UT) : 1.

Schemes for the Development of Buddhist Centres

1925. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Buddhist centres are proposed to be developed with external aid ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what are the centres in Andhra Pradesh which are included under the Schemes ?